

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

[Home](#)

About

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Five

University of California sets world record with five Nobel Prizes in one week

By [Aedin Vaziri](#), Staff Writer
Oct 10, 2020



UC Berkeley chemist Omar Yaghi received the Nobel Prize in chemistry for inventing "metal-organic frameworks," materials capable of harvesting clean drinking water from desert air.

- Frederick Ramsdell, an alumnus of UCLA and UC San Diego, who shared the Nobel prize in medicine
- UC Berkeley professor emeritus John Clarke, who won in physics
- UC Santa Barbara professor Michel H. Devoret, who won in physics
- UC Santa Barbara professor emeritus John M. Martinis, who won in physics
- UC Berkeley professor Omar Yaghi, who won in chemistry

Source: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/uc-nobel-prizes-record-21094964.php>; <https://edsource.org/updates/uc-system-wins-five-nobel-prizes-in-one-week-breaking-a-world-record>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:05 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: UC-Berkeley, UC-San Diego, UC-Santa Barbara, UCLA

Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Going Down - Part 2

From the [San Francisco Chronicle](#):
High school students hoping to attend California State University will soon be admitted automatically under a new law — as long as their grades are good enough to get in. The “CSU Direct Admission Program,” established by SB640, was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom this week... In the program’s first year, high school seniors from 43 California school districts will be covered by the program and automatically admitted to CSU for fall 2026. After that, the program will expand to all 937 school districts in the state...*



The Council of UC Faculty Associations

- Letter from AAUP to UC Objecting to Trellix
- Judge rules Trump demands of UCLA must be made public
- Faculty are fighting back
- Faculty Lawsuit Demands Public Access to Trump Administration's Settlement Demands on University of California
- Coalition of UC unions condemns Trump's attacks on the UC and the California economy

Remaking the University

- **Liner Note 40. AI's Two Pathways: 2025 Has Discredited Booster Assumptions of 2024 - 10/11/2025**
- **Liner Note 39. Attack Theory for Education - 9/28/2025**
- **Liner Note 38. The University of California's Charlie Kirk Tribute Act - 9/16/2025**

Higher Ed. News & Commentary

- Chronicle of Higher Education
- Inside Higher Education
- Remaking the University
- Changing Universities
- California Professor

Search This Blog

Search

UC Faculty Associations

- UCLA Faculty Association
- UCSB Faculty Association
- UCSC Faculty Association
- UCB Faculty Association
- Council of UC Faculty Associations

Other Faculty Organizations

- American Association of University Professors
- California Faculty Association (NEA)
- UC-AFT

Topics

politics (2238) UC
(2057) UC Regents
(1862) health care
(1413) State Budget
(1262) governor (1112)
UC budget crisis (956)
diversity (902) UC-
Berkeley (895) pension
(656) pensions (589)
admissions (534) tuition (523)
athletics (511) CSU (406)
transportation (387) UC-Davis
(374) online education (338)
UCOP (304) uc retirement
(301) ucpr (300) traffic (292)
audio (291) new hotel-

Direct admissions helps CSU... **Many campuses have been starved for students since the COVID-19 pandemic shifted enrollment patterns across the state, and as the number of college-age students has declined...**

Full story at <https://www.sfchronicle.com/california/article/csu-direct-admissions-sb640-21092684.php>.

==

*https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB640.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [admissions](#), [CSU](#), [enrollment](#)

Straws in the Wind - Part 131

From [Inside Higher Ed](#): *Even before U.S. universities lost billions of dollars in federal research funding and international students struggled to obtain visas, America's dominance in research impact and global reputation was waning. According to the latest rankings from Times Higher Education, the U.S. has continued to cede influence to universities in Asia. For several years, the rankings from Inside Higher Ed's parent company have documented a steady decline in the U.S.'s leadership in global higher education. The 2026 World University Rankings reflect that ongoing trend: Just 102 universities from the United States cracked the top 500—the lowest figure on record, down from a high of 125 in 2018. (The rankings started in 2004.)*



The downward trend is less apparent in the overall top 10, where seven U.S. institutions appear. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is the highest-ranked American institution, coming in at No. 2, just behind the top-ranked University of Oxford. According to THE, Princeton University recorded an institutional best score to tie for third.

But institutions farther down the list have slipped. Twenty-five colleges logged their worst-ever scores while 62 dropped in the rankings, which uses 18 measures to judge institutions on five areas including teaching, research quality and international outlook...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/global/us-colleges-world/2025/10/09/us-continues-decline-world-university-rankings>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [MIT](#), [Oxford](#), [Princeton U](#)

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 75



From the [Harvard Crimson](#): *Harvard will lay off roughly 25 percent of staff represented by its clerical and technical workers' union at the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences and reorganize several offices in response to mounting funding pressures, according to the union. SEAS Dean David C. Parkes announced the layoffs, which also affected non-union staff, in an email sent to SEAS staff Thursday morning. He cited an increase in the federal tax on Harvard's endowment income, an anticipated reduction in federal agencies' reimbursement rates for indirect research costs, and "changes to the allocation of research funding" as financial pressures.*

...The Harvard Union of Clerical and Technical Workers, in an email to its members sent Thursday morning, described the layoffs as the "largest cut at any Harvard school in decades and at least three times deeper than any other Harvard unit is undertaking in this challenging moment." It remains unclear which other schools have reduced their staff numbers, and how many employees they have laid off. The Harvard Kennedy School announced that it was laying off staff over the summer, and the School of Public Health also reduced employee numbers last spring.

Parkes' email cited an increase in the federal tax on Harvard's endowment income, an anticipated reduction in federal agencies' reimbursement rates for indirect research costs, and "changes to the allocation of research funding" as financial pressures...

Full story at <https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2025/10/10/seas-staff-25-percent-layoffs/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:10 AM](#) No comments: 

Labels: [Harvard](#), [politics](#)

Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Vetoed

From the [Sacramento Bee](#): *Gov. Gavin Newsom on Monday night vetoed several bills that were part of the Legislative Black Caucus' 'Road to Repair' priority package, intended to address a*

conference center (282) UC enrollment (280) enrollment (257) UC-San Diego (255) community colleges (236) LAO (224) UC-Irvine (183) fund raising (165) UC-San Francisco (159) UC-Santa Barbara (158) UC-Santa Cruz (156) controller (147) faculty center (144) UC-Riverside (140) ballot propositions (132) CalPERS (122) UC-Merced (114) faculty pay (109) Master Plan (102) Yudof (90) UCRS retirement (62) Faculty Association at UCLA (60) parking (60) privatization (59) CalSTRS (50) UC Berkeley (34) copyright (34) campus climate survey (28) UCRS (22) Michigan Model (18) UC Merced (17) uc funding (16) Regents (14) State Contribution (14) UCOF (14) faculty recruitment (12) UC pay (7) graduate education (6) UC San Diego (5) UC Irvine (3) UCPolitics (3) teaching evaluation (3) UC Santa Cruz (2)

Blog Archive

▼ 2025 (938)

▼ October (104)

But feel free to walk around

Straws in the Wind - Part 147

Our Halloween Offering

UCLA/UC Throws in the Towel - Part 3 (more reflect...

Straws in the Wind - Part 146

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 83

UCLA/UC Throws in the Towel - Part 2 (reflections)

Straws in the Wind - Part 145

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 82

Westside Commutes

Graduate Degrees After Undergraduate

Straws in the Wind - Part 144

Don't Choose What's Not on the Menu

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 81

Successor to UCAD

Bubble, Bubble?

Athletic Investments - Part 2

Straws in the Wind - Part 143

UCLA/UC Throws in the Towel

Athletic Investments

Straws in the Wind - Part 142

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 80

We're a'waiting - Part 2 (UC's hesitating)

Miscellaneous

Straws in the Wind - Part 141

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 79

April 24, 2026

Straws in the Wind - Part 140

Lawsuit May Affect UC Authors

We're a'waiting

Athletic Reluctance

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 78

Straws in the Wind - Part 139

The Club

Kent Wong

Straws in the Wind - Part 138

Behind Closed Doors This Coming Wednesday

Turn Around

Straws in the Wind - Part 137



legacy of injustice toward Black Californians. Of the caucus' 15 bills, only ten made it to the governor's desk, and he vetoed more than half of them. The governor vetoed bills that would have given descendants of slaves more opportunity for university admission, home-buying and professional licenses, and also shot down proposals to expand Diversity Equity and Inclusion strategic planning and help people regain property after racially-

motivated eminent domain.

...On the subject of Assembly Bill 7, which would have clarified that California colleges* are allowed to consider whether an applicant was a descendent of slaves, Newsom thanked author Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, D-Jefferson Park, but said the bill was "unnecessary" because state universities already have the power to determine whether to make such admission preferences. "I encourage the institutions referenced in this bill to review and determine how, when, and if this type of preference can be adopted," he wrote...

Full story at <https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article312490297.html>.

===

*The bill would have applied to UC, CSU, and private institutions. See AB 7 text:

<https://legiscan.com/CA/text/AB7/id/3029617>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at [8:19 AM](#) No comments:

Labels: [admissions](#), [CSU](#), [governor](#), [UC](#)

Behind Closed Doors Today

The Regents are holding a closed-door meeting today at UC-San Francisco (and other remote locations). No, it's not about what you might think, given the ongoing conflict with the feds. See the agenda below:

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Date: October 14, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: UCSF Mission Bay Conference Center, San Francisco Campus, and:

1675 Owens Street, San Francisco Campus

780 S Airport Blvd, San Francisco, CA

6085 State Farm Drive, Rohnert Park

1 Shields Ave, Davis Campus

1115 11th Street, Sacramento, CA

1017 Ellington St, Delano, CA

425 Westwood Plaza, Los Angeles Campus

9336 Civic Centre Drive, Beverly Hills, CA

450 Alumni Court, Irvine Campus

500 S. Buena Vista Street, Burbank 91521

6200 Playa Vista Dr, Playa Vista, CA

3333 North Torrey Pines Court, San Diego Campus

74-855 Country Club Dr, Palm Desert, CA

106 East Babcock Street, Boseman, MT

Agenda – Closed Session

B1(X) Action Athletic Contract Compensation Components for UCLA Football Head Coach, Los Angeles Campus

B2(X) Action Participation in Joint Exercise of Powers Agreement to Form an Authority, Invest in the Authority, Provide a Line of Credit to the Authority, and Obtain External Financing for Capital Funding for the Investment, San Diego Campus

B3(X) Discussion Potential Acquisition of Residential Property, UC Santa Barbara

==

Source: <https://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/meetings/agendas/oct2025.html>.



Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 77

Ten Percent

Straws in the Wind - Part 136

In House

Straws in the Wind - Part 135

Call

Brave New World - Part 2

Straws in the Wind - Part 134

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 76

Something Missing? - Part 2

Straws in the Wind - Part 133

Subway traffic issues around UCLA this coming weekend

If at first...

Input

Straws in the Wind - Part 132

Five

Going Down - Part 2

Straws in the Wind - Part 131

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 75

Vetoed

Behind Closed Doors Today

Newsom on Federal Data Requests and Related Topics

Straws in the Wind - Part 130

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 74

Something Missing?

Straws in the Wind - Part 129

Reject

Going Down

Straws in the Wind - Part 128

Hi

Back and Forth

Straws in the Wind - Part 127

Brave New World

Straws in the Wind - Part 126

Another Quarterly Reminder

Fully Aligned?

Straws in the Wind - Part 125

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 73

Rank Smell

Straws in the Wind - Part 124

Don't Click!

Confidence vs. Confidence

Straws in the Wind - Part 123

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 72

Nowadays, nothing is official...

Tweaks - Part 2

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 71

Straws in the Wind - Part 122

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 70

Slow hiring

Straws in the Wind - Part 121

They must be somewhere

Straws in the Wind - Part 120

The Alternative Way to Read the Blog

Update on Vote

Nothing to See Here

Straws in the Wind - Part 119

Will Harvard Continue to Lead the Charge? - Part 69

No Rush

Cloudy Outlook

Straws in the Wind - Part 118

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:35 AM No comments: 

Labels: [athletics](#), [UC Regents](#)

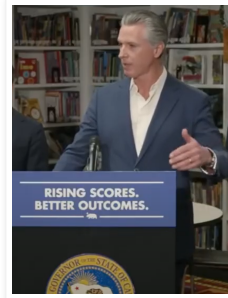
Newsom on Federal Data Requests and Related Topics

At a news conference on October 9th dealing mainly with K-12 test scores and related topics, Governor Newsom was asked about a data request from the federal government for employee data at CSU, similar to a request from UC-Berkeley (that was granted).

He said he had received a legal analysis from UC that indicated that providing the data was legally-obligated and that he would be receiving a report from CSU.

In his remarks, he referenced the \$1 billion demand from UCLA and the proposed "compact" offered by the feds to USC.

You can see and hear his remarks at the link below:



Newsom on federal data req...



Or direct to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IGJug9Mz1Q.

The full news conference is at <https://ia800103.us.archive.org/6/items/united-we-can-yes-on-50-united-we-can-10-3-2025/newsom%2010-9-2025%20student%20scores.mp4>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments: 

Labels: [academic freedom](#), [CSU](#), [governor](#), [politics](#), [UC](#), [UC-Berkeley](#), [UCLA](#), [USC](#)

[Newer Posts](#)

[Home](#)

[Older Posts](#)

Subscribe to: [Comments \(Atom\)](#)

- [September](#) (116)
- [August](#) (115)
- [July](#) (101)
- [June](#) (96)
- [May](#) (85)
- [April](#) (81)
- [March](#) (83)
- [February](#) (76)
- [January](#) (81)

- [2024](#) (832)
- [2023](#) (828)
- [2022](#) (719)
- [2021](#) (710)
- [2020](#) (914)
- [2019](#) (671)
- [2018](#) (595)
- [2017](#) (666)
- [2016](#) (715)
- [2015](#) (765)
- [2014](#) (704)
- [2013](#) (776)
- [2012](#) (839)
- [2011](#) (738)
- [2010](#) (431)
- [2009](#) (12)

Contributors

- [California Policy Issues](#)
- [Toby Higbie](#)
- [UCLA Faculty Association](#)